

The SWORD of the LORD

Edited by JOHN R. RICE.

"And they cried, The Sword of the Lord, and of Gideon." Judges 7:20

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Perfect Love The Father's Responsibility

BY H. A. IRONSIDE, LITT. D., D.D.
Pastor Moody Memorial Church, Chicago

(Preached to approximately 3,500 people in Sunday evening service, in Moody Memorial Church, stenographically reported.)

"Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the Day of Judgment: because as He is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love. We love Him because He first loved us." — I John 4:17

These verses troubled me for some six years after I was converted more than anything else in the Bible, excepting one verse from the Epistle to the Hebrews, which isn't there it all! The verse I imagined was in Hebrews caused me many sleepless nights, and much soul anxiety. I had often heard it quoted and I was so impressed with its importance that I had it painted on a banner to hang up behind me almost every place I went, for I was sure it was God's Word, and I believed it, even though it caused me a lot of trouble. I shall never forget how amazed I was when at last I found that it wasn't in the Bible. I had heard great sermons preached on it, and I even preached on it frequently myself.

The text was, "WITHOUT HOLINESS NO MAN SHALL SEE THE LORD." I was absolutely certain that it was in the Book, and I had been told that holiness was a second definite work of grace subsequent to justification, an experience of inward cleansing whereby all Adamic sin was eliminated from one's being; and that unless one obtained this experience of holiness here on earth, no matter whether he had been regenerated, justified, and enjoyed much of Christ, he would never see the Lord after all.

I used to tremble sometimes as one old friend of mine preached



DR. H. A. IRONSIDE

with terrific intensity on the startling topic, "Holiness or Hell!"

He insisted that if we did not get all inbred sin purged out of us while in this life, so that we were absolutely holy in thought, word, and deed, we would be lost eventually in spite of any Christian experience we had enjoyed. Again and again I sought the Lord in earnestness of spirit, pleading with Him to root out all the sin from my heart. I told Him I would do, be, or go, whatever and wherever He would have me, and I claimed the blessing by a faith, which I now know was presumption, and tried to keep on claiming it even

(Continued on page two)

BY EVANGELIST JOE HENRY HANKINS, D.D.

"AND THEY WENT BOTH OF THEM TOGETHER" — Gen. 22:6

(Preached at the First Baptist Church, Little Rock, Arkansas, Sunday morning, June 21, 1942, and stenographically reported.)

The story of Abraham and Isaac is one of the most beautiful stories in the Bible of a father and his son and their comradeship together. Isaac was born in answer to prayer, the prayer of a father's heart for many years before the son came. Long years Abraham waited on God believing that God would keep that promise. Then when Isaac came there grew up between this father and son the most perfect understanding and the most perfect comradeship that could possibly exist between a father and his son.

The story of Abraham offering Isaac shows the perfect confidence that the son had in his father. When the time came for God to test the old father and he makes that journey early in the morning to that lonely spot on Mount Moriah with a breaking heart — for he hasn't yet told his son what God had revealed to him and what must happen there — when he came to the place and the time came for him to lay that boy upon the altar and take the knife in his own hand and take his life, and he gets out the cords and begins to bind the son, so perfectly is that boy's confidence in his father that he never asks another question. He never offers a protest, but willingly submits himself to the binding. As Abraham lifts the knife God says, "Abraham, that is enough; stay your hand." Can't you imagine the rejoicing on the part of that father and son? When that son sees that his faith in his father has been vindicated and the father's faith in God has been rewarded it is a great hour in the lives of those two men.

Isaac was born when Abraham was 100 years old, Isaac is now 26 years of age, but Abraham, the father, is an old man, stricken in years. But between the old man and the young man there is still

that beautiful relationship of perfect trust, perfect comradeship, perfect fellowship and perfect faith in one another.

We say a great deal about mother and motherhood, but I think all too little has been said about fatherhood and the responsibility that rests upon him. God bless our mothers! We are in the home with them when we are babies and little children until we all but become a part of them. But sometimes we forget that fathers love as deeply as mothers. It has been said, and it is commonly accepted that a man does not love and cannot love as deeply as a woman. But psychologists tell us that man loves even more deeply than a woman. He loves his children. They are "bone of his bone and flesh of his flesh" and there is something in that truth that ties him on to that child. Even though the mother gives birth to the child the father gives the life and he is a part of his life.

The father isn't privileged to be with the child like the mother. The necessity of providing for his household takes the father away and many times almost all of his time is spent away from his family. He is deprived of the fellowship with them that he would so love to have. He is deprived of many things the mother has — the prattle of the baby and the toddling about and seeing him do the cute things. But it doesn't mean that the father's heart is not yonder in the home. He is out in the battle of life, in the struggle to support his home. There isn't a true father in this world that wouldn't take the shirt off his back for his child and make any sacrifice. They do sacrifice far more than we realize or give them credit for. They do love more deeply than we give them credit for.

Father Is to His Children Like God to His Saints

God expresses his relationship to the redeemed as a father to his



DR. JOE HENRY HANKINS

child and says to us, "Like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear him." God describes the final state of the redeemed as a great big family and tells us He will be the father in that home and that Jesus Christ will be the elder brother. "For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren." Again we are told, "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father . . . And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint heirs with Christ." God pictures the redeemed of all the ages as a family that has gathered home for a great reunion, one by one, from distant climes. They are coming home from "all nations and kindreds, and peoples, and tongues" for that reunion, and God says they "shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob," while God him-

(Continued on page two)

The Dance Inflames Lust, Leads to Adultery

BY EVANGELIST JOHN R. RICE

In an East Texas city at the close of a service in a big tent campaign, a weeping girl of twenty waited to talk to me. She had a sad story to tell me. As she had prepared to go to a country club dance her mother had said, "No, honey, you must not go. It is dangerous and wrong. You must not go." But the girl had stormed and said, "But I will go! I'm old enough to take care of myself. You old folks don't want us to have any fun, and you think we don't know anything. I will go!" And go, she did.

At the dance she danced with her sweetheart, to whom she was engaged to be married. But she also danced several times with a high school friend. He held her close, his eyes burned strangely, she said.

Finally he said, "Let's sit out this dance on the porch." So they sat on the cool dark balcony.

Then, "Let us sit in my car," he had said. And they sat in the car. Then soon, he turned the switch and drove away out into the night.

Weeping, she said to me, "Oh, Brother Rice, I wouldn't have done it, but we were so aroused by the

dance that we hardly knew what we were doing!"

Then she told me that she had just come that afternoon from a doctor who told her she was to have a baby. She was distracted; she had considered suicide, had considered trying to find a doctor who would perform an illegal operation and remove the child. But weeping she said, "But that would be murder, and my conscience would never let me rest, and I'm afraid I would go to Hell." When I suggested she marry the boy with whom she sinned, she insisted that she did not love him, that she did love the boy to whom she was engaged, but she dared not tell him of her sin, and without telling him she could not marry the innocent sweetheart who loved her and believed in her. Clenching her small fists and with tears running down her face, she looked at me and said, "Preacher, I wish I had listened to my mother! I wish I had never seen a dance! Now, oh, God, what am I going to do? What am I going to do?"

In that case the dance immediately led to the arousing of sex

(Continued on page four)

Hundreds of Ministers Commend 'Sword of the Lord'

We have letters from hundreds of ministers telling what a blessing *The Sword of the Lord* is to them, telling us that they often use the preaching material in it, that the evangelistic fervor in the sermons by America's best soul winners has lighted fires in their own hearts and ministries, that they refer to the paper in the pulpit and commend it publicly to their people, that they find the warm Bible teaching and the faithful stand for clean living and sound doctrine specially helpful to their people.

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(Continued on page four)

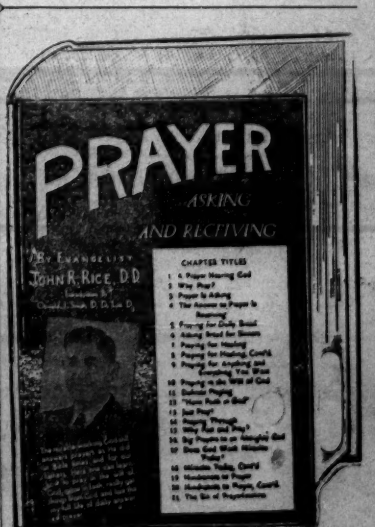
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(Continued on page four)



THE FATHER'S RESPONSIBILITY

(Continued from page one)

self spreads the feast and the marriage of the elder brother takes place. I tell you it is grand to be a Christian! It is wonderful to be a child of God! It is wonderful to think about that day when the whole family will all gather, not as strangers, but as one big family, to live with God the Father forever.

This morning I want us to think about the matter of a father and his family.

The Man the Head of the Family

God meant that the man should be the head of his family. We do a lot of foolish jesting sometimes now-a-days about that truth, and you hear somebody say, "Yes, the man is the head of the family, but the wife is the neck and the neck turns the head." No such foolish jesting ought to be done about a sublime truth that God Almighty saw fit, by the Holy Spirit, to put into His word. It is a sacred place and a sacred responsibility that God Almighty has placed upon the fatherhood of the world, that the man is to be the head of his home, that he should be in the place of absolute authority. I know a lot of people dislike that but that is God's plan for a happy family, and you can't beat God's plan for anything. O how long will it be before we learn that you can't beat God's plan for a happy life, a happy home, a victorious Christian life, or blessedness anywhere? You can't improve on God's plan. And if men and nations, instead of trying to have their own way and formulate their own plans, would realize that God is all wise, and that the best thing the human race could possibly do would be to fall in with God's plan and order our whole life after God's will and plan. We would be far better off. I tell you it would be glorious and wonderful if the world would do it. One day they will do it. One day "the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea . . . and nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more."

There will not only be peace among nations, but happiness in the family life of the world. "But they shall sit every man under his vine and fig tree; and none shall make him afraid . . . The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. And the sucking asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice' den." O when will man understand that God's will is best and His plan for anything cannot be improved upon?

Yes, God meant that the man should be the head of the family. Genesis 3:16, "Unto the woman he said, and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee." Not as a tyrant, not as a despot, not as a cruel monster, but that man should have absolute authority in his home, and that his word in that home should be law. Of course, God also meant that man should be a godly man — God-honoring, God-fearing man. He should exercise that authority in the fear of God and that he should be a benevolent ruler, under God. That is God's plan for a happy home. I Cor. 11:13, "The head of the woman is the man . . . For the man is not of the woman but the woman of the man." Eph. 5:22, "Wives submit yourselves unto

your husbands as unto the Lord for the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church." The Holy Spirit spoke those words and God had a purpose in it. No home will ever be a happy home nor will it be what God intended it should be until the man takes that responsibility under God and exercises it in the fear of the Lord. No wife and no mother can make a home what it ought to be until she recognizes that authority in the man and respects that authority and teaches the children to respect it.

A Father

God meant that a man should rule his house. Gen 18:19, "I know Abraham, that he will command his children and his household after him, that they shall keep the way of the Lord." In speaking of the qualifications of a preacher God said in I Tim. 3:2, "A bishop must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach." I say the greatest need of today is respect for authority in the home and for men who feel the responsibility to assume and exercise that authority and demand respect for it. For the core-principle of all civilization and society is respect for authority, and if that isn't taught to the children in the home there never will be respect for authority and the children will grow up anarchists and rebels against all constituted authority. We need in America today respect for constituted authority. The reason most of our criminals are under 21 years of age is because authority in the home has long since practically gone — broken down.

This morning I thank God from the depths of my heart for this gray-headed father, who is here with me today. Bless his heart, I say it to his praise and to his credit his word was law in our home. When he said, "Do" or "don't," nobody asked why. The fact that he said it was sufficient and he didn't say it twice — one time and that was enough. Was he a tyrant? No, he was the best pal his boys ever had. No man ever loved his home more, but his word was law.

Not one time in my life have I referred to my dad as "the old man." He is my father, my pal. I tell you it is a sad day in a boy's life when he calls his father "old man." But it is sadder still for the father, for it is a sign that the father hasn't filled the place of responsibility in that lad's life that God meant for him to fill, when his son will refer to him as "the old man" and to the mother as "the old woman." Yes, God meant that the father should take the responsibility of disciplining the home and do it in such a way as to make it a Christian home.

Man the Priest of the Home

God meant, yes God ordained, that the man should be the religious head of his family. God meant that the man should be the priest in his household, the religious leader, the religious head of the family. The father ought to be the one to lead the way in religious matters. It is his place to set the example and to take the responsibility and not alone the mother's. Wherever there is a father that dodges his religious obligation to his home and to his family he is a derelict in his duty and is living in disobedience to the plain command of God. God has placed this responsibility upon the father, but many of them haven't had the courage to take that responsibility, but leave it all to the wife. A man ought to be the priest and the religious head of the family. I read in the Old Testament that it was the father who offered the sacrifice; it was the father who killed the passover, and it was the father who was commanded to teach the Word of God to his children in the home. Deut. 6:6-9, "These words which I command thee this day shall be in thine heart; And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes. And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thine house, and on thy gates."

In the 30th chapter of Numbers, God says that if the wife make a vow, and the husband knows about the vow and does not disallow it

PERFECT LOVE

(Continued from page one)

when I was greatly distressed by the fear that the claim had no foundation in fact. For, while I would go on well for a little time, eventually something would always go wrong, and I would have to start all over again seeking the experience of holiness. Moreover, I saw that people with whom I associated were all in the same boat as myself. No one's "sanctification" lasted very long, but all broke down from time to time, yet I could not believe that the trouble was in the text, or in my understanding of it. I felt it must be in myself. Surely my consecration was not complete, or I would attain to the blessedness of sinless perfection.

I can scarcely describe my astonishment when after six years of this dreadful uncertainty, I sat down one day to thoughtfully peruse Hebrews 12, and when I came to verse 14, I could hardly believe my own eyes as I read, "Follow peace with all men and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord." In a moment the light broke. I said to myself, "Dear me, that is what I have been doing ever since I was converted. It has been the earnest desire of my heart to be at peace with all men, and to walk in holiness. But if you follow holiness you certainly have not caught up with it."

I am sure you can see how different the actual text is to that which I had imagined. The bare statement, "Without holiness no man shall see the Lord" had conveyed an utterly wrong thought to my mind, whereas the exhortation to "follow holiness without which no man shall see the Lord" simply tests the reality of one's profession of a new birth, for every truly born again person delights in holiness and follows after it, even though conscious of the fact that he has not yet attained to it in the absolute sense.

"Without Peace No Man —"

Take the other part of the verse. Suppose one were to say, "Without peace with all men no man shall see the Lord." Why, I have been

but holds his peace when he hears it, she must keep that vow but if it is a foolish vow her iniquity will be upon her husband. God said the same thing about a child that makes a foolish vow and the father hears her and does not immediately disallow that vow but lets it go, the evil consequences will be upon that father. God places the sole responsibility in matters of religion upon the man for his house.

Abraham, in offering Isaac, took the sole responsibility of that act. He didn't ask Sarah if she were willing. He realized his responsibility as a father under the law of God and took the whole responsibility without asking anybody's consent. God gave it to him and he was exercising his proper authority and assuming his proper responsibility.

God's Ordained Leader in Kingdom Work

God meant also that man should take the leading place and the leading responsibility in the work of the church and of the kingdom. God didn't mean that the working forces of the church would have to be women. God bless the women! I am not throwing off on them, I am simply showing how men have shirked the responsibility until the women have had to step in and take over or see the work fail. God meant that men should take the responsibility of leadership in the kingdom. The first great prophet was a man, Enoch. The first great preacher of righteousness was a man, Noah. The first great lawgiver was a man, Moses. All the judges of Israel except one were men and that one was Deborah. She apologized for having to take the place. She tried to get a man to take it, but he wouldn't do it. She said, "I go with you, but the honor of this victory shall not go to you but reproach that a woman has to lead."

All the Old Testament prophets were men. When Jesus chose the twelve to teach and train them for the work of the kingdom not a single woman was in the group. Every New Testament preacher mentioned in the Bible was a man. The only other office in the church mentioned in the Scripture is that of a deacon. They were men full

(Continued on page four)

following peace for forty-two years, but I am not at peace with all men yet. Many of them won't let me be at peace with them no matter how earnestly I seek it. But it is my ideal; I have no desire to wound and injure people, nor needlessly to enter into conflict with them. I delight in peace as every true Christian should. But it is very plain that you have not caught up with something which you are following. And on the other hand, a man who does not follow after peace and holiness, whatever his profession is, just to that extent he is a hypocrite.

Which of my hearers can say he is absolutely holy in the flesh?

I heard a man make the statement in a meeting many years ago, "I want you to know that I am as holy as Jesus Christ was!" Two days later the police broke into his house in response to his wife's screams, just in time to save her from being beheaded, as he sought to kill her with an axe. Of course, the poor fellow was demented, and he died in an insane asylum shortly afterwards. "If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us." The most devoted saint has no holiness in the flesh. But our standing is another thing altogether; we are seen by God as holy in Christ. God hath made Him to be unto us wisdom, righteousness, sanctification (or holiness), and redemption.

"Love Made Perfect"

But now I want to examine with some degree of care the verses which I have read as a text for this discourse. They used to trouble me greatly. I simply could not understand them. I knew I had been born of God. I was sure His Spirit dwelt within me; I yearned for greater fellowship with Himself. I loved His Word, and I delighted in declaring the Gospel (so far as I then understood it) to others. But these verses distressed me terribly. I would say to myself, as I read them, "Herein is our love made perfect, but my love is not made perfect. My love is very imperfect. There is a great deal of selfishness connected with it. I am often very inconsiderate; I am frequently thoughtless about the comfort and happiness of others, and think more of ministering to my own pleasure. If my love were perfect this would never be. I would always think of others first, and of God and of Christ, and not of myself at all. But the verse says 'Our love is made perfect,' and boldness in the Day of Judgment seems to hang upon this."

Oh, the agony I went through as I looked forward to that Day of Judgment! What if, after all I had known and enjoyed of Christ, that Day of doom simply brought out the fact that my love was still so imperfect there could be no heaven for me!

I did not understand the Christian's relation to judgment, of which I shall speak later. I knew that Christ had died for my sins, and that through faith in Him my soul was saved. But I thought of the Christian life as a probation and that the final test was to be made in the Judgment Day, as to whether I should go to Heaven or Hell. How could I then have boldness in the Day of Judgment, when my personal experience was so unsatisfactory?

The last part of the verse was even more perplexing, "Because as He is, so are we in this world." The words were simple enough. Nine monosyllables, but who could claim to have attained to such perfection as this? I said to myself, "I am not as He is, not yet, at all events. I am not as holy as He is; I am not as righteous as He is; I am not as compassionate and thoughtful of others as He is. How then can I say, 'As He is so am I in this world?'"

Then the next verse declares, "There is no fear in love, but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love." "Ah," I said to myself, "if I could only attain to this blissful condition where I would be perfect in love, then all this torment and fear would disappear. But that is just the trouble with me. I am not yet perfect in love. I still have fear; fear does torment, and I do not see how I can ever have settled peace until I attain this greatly to be desired experience of perfect love."

I wonder how many who are listening to me tonight have gone through a similar time of perplex-

ity and anxiety. I wonder if there are any who are going through it now. If you are, I beg you follow me most carefully as I seek to show you

How I Found Deliverance

First let me remark that although I have tried to read my Bible regularly all my life, I have to confess I have often read it very carelessly. For instance until about the same time as the revelation came to me concerning the Hebrews passage, I had never noticed the marginal emendation in connection with I John 4:17, "Herein is love with us made perfect." "Love with us!" What does it mean? It certainly does not mean that our own love is perfect, but it speaks of a love in which we share. I was startled and thrilled. I looked it up in some more critical versions, and I found that the real meaning of the passage was this, "Herein has love been perfected with us, that we may have boldness in the Day of Judgment, that even as He is we also are in this world." It seemed that everything was clearing in a moment. I saw that for six years I had been looking for perfect love in the wrong man. God, by the Spirit, seemed to say to me, "Perfect love is in another Man, the Man Christ Jesus, and in that Man for you." And then I noticed the connective "herein." This, of course, is intended to direct our minds to something that has been written before, and so I glanced back in the chapter, and, oh, what precious things I found! "In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent His only begotten Son into the world that we might live through Him." "Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His son to be the propitiation for our sins" (vv. 9, 10). Here indeed is perfect love, and that in all its fullness. It is God's love to me manifested in the Mediator between God and man, our Lord Jesus Christ. It was love that gave Him, and notice the double nature or character of the gift.

Because we were dead in trespasses and in sins, God in His infinite love sent His only begotten Son into the world that we might live through Him. Because we were guilty and defiled by sin, God sent His Son to make expiation for our iniquity. Thus we have everything in Christ, and Christ is everything to the believer for time and eternity. God's love is seen in all its fullness in the work of the Cross. Herein has love been perfected with us. And so we may have boldness in the Day of Judgment. If God sent His Son to be the propitiation for my sins, I need not now fear the Judgment, because the Lord Jesus has already gone into judgment for me. He took my place, He paid my debt, and delivered me from every claim of the outraged throne of God.

"By faith the Lamb of God I see Expiring on the Cross for me; He paid the mighty debt I owe, He died because He loved me so.

"For me the Father sent His Son, For me the victory He won; To save my soul from endless woe, He died because He loved me so."

This indeed gives boldness in view of the Judgment Day. For when that last dread hour arrives, my case is not coming up. It was all settled nineteen hundred years ago, and settled to the divine satisfaction.

No Fear of Law

Suppose I am passing a courthouse, and I see a group of manacled men entering under guard of a police platoon. I inquire of some one standing by as to what is going on, and I learn that a number of desperate criminals are to come up for trial. I decide to go in and hear some of the evidence, but as

(Continued on page three)

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Oswald J. Smith, D.D., Litt. D., F. R. G. S., pastor Peoples Church, Toronto, famed author, evangelist, missionary leader. Near a quarter million of his books published; has preached to multitudes in Russia, Africa, Australia and Haiti as well as the States and Canada. His Peoples Missionary Society sends support to about 200 missionaries in 20 fields. Has a passion for souls, gets great crowds. Hear him!

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Prof. Elbert Thurwalden Tindley. One of the most remarkable gospel soloists in America. Son of famous Dr. Tindley, pastor of Tindley Temple, colored Methodist Church, Philadelphia with many thousands of members. The elder Tindley wrote stirring songs including "Nothing Between," "Take Your Burden to the Lord and Leave It There," "We Will Understand It Better By And Bye" and many others, which are now sung with a holy abandon by his consecrated son in a way to bring tears and holy vows and revival. Prof. Tindley will be assisted by his talented wife, pianist and coloratura soprano. They are expected to be in every service the full eight days.

Harry J. Hagar, D. D., pastor of the host church, Bethany Reformed. Is chairman of Evangelism in his denomination, is greatly loved, has much of the conviction and fire of Calvin, in much demand for revival preaching, has done a blessed soul winning work in this great church.

Harry A. Ironside, Litt. D., D. D. Pastor Moody Memorial Church, Chicago, author many books, most popular Bible teacher in America, wins many at Moody church, preaching regularly to crowds averaging, on Sunday nights, 3,500.

Prof. Talmage Bittkofer, professor in Moody Bible Institute, master director of great choirs, is invited to direct music. We do not have final word. He will mold the great audiences into a singing unity as few men can do it, if he can take charge as we hope. Dr. Homer Hammonette finds he cannot come. The music will be unusual.

Rev. William McCarroll, Pastor Cicero Bible Church, Founder, Independent Churches of America, leads big men's Fishermen's Clubs which has won thousands. Teaches pastoral theology in Moody Institute. Will give rich message on soul-winning: "Ponds, Tackle and Bait."

John R. Rice, D.D., Evangelist, editor *The Sword of the Lord*, au-

thor of a number of books and pamphlets with wide circulation. Has seen over 15,000 claim Christ as Saviour in his ministry. A fervent speaker, sharp, plain, colorful, using many scriptures; stirs Christians, wins sinners, often heard on Christian Business Men's program, etc.

Dr. Oswald J. Smith, Dr. Joe Henry Hankins, and Dr. John R. Rice will speak most often, it is planned. Prof. Elbert Tindley will sing in each service, God willing.

Dr. Philpot, pastor Philpot Tabernacle, London, Ont., Canada. One message.

Special Features

Thursday night we want all pastors and evangelists who will to be guests of *The Sword of the Lord* and the editor for supper at the church at 6:00. Get acquainted with the speakers, plan, ask questions about revivals, have sweet fellowship. Pastors and evangelists who expect to come please notify us by Wednesday night, November 11, either at Wheaton, or at Bethany Reformed Church.

Friday night we plan a night of prayer, humbling our hearts, begging God for revival, for personal victory and power, for loved ones who should be saved. No set time to close. Stay as long as you like. We may continue till midnight, possibly till morning, as God leads and the burden to pray requires.

We earnestly pray that God will call out missionaries, evangelists and other soul-winners to a definite consecration, laying all on the altar, to die if need be, or suffer the loss of everything men love, to bring revival and win souls around the world. May lead us to impetunate prayer! May His Spirit come upon us with power and make us what we need to be to have His mighty revival power!

Delegations are expected to attend from four states. We earnestly invite pastors and churches nearby to see that leading workers, teachers and other members attend regularly, that the blessing may be carried to many churches, that it may result, if God mercifully blesses us, in revivals in many churches.

At the same time, we earnestly hope to see many souls saved. The closing message each evening should bring conviction and salvation to sinners.

Pray for Revival! Let God Use You!

We beseech Christians everywhere to pray for this conference that each speaker and singer may be anointed of God in a most unusual fashion, that there may be tears, penitence, heart searching, surrender, and the fullness of the Spirit in many lives, resulting eventually in the salvation of multitudes, MAY GOD GRANT IT! Will you pray?

The time, Nov. 8-15. Place, Bethany Reformed Church, 111th Place and Perry Avenue. Hours 2:30 and 7:15 p.m. daily, except no afternoon service Saturday. Rooms, Meals, available at near-by YMCA and Hotel. Write or phone us for further information.

BETHANY REFORMED CHURCH
Harry J. Hagar, Pastor
Church Office, No. 3 111th Place
Chicago

THE SWORD OF THE LORD
John R. Rice, Editor
145 North Hale St., Wheaton, Ill.

(These speakers and singers will be heard during conference, on Radio WMBI at 1:00 p.m. week days, with Christian Business Men, Radio WJJD, Northern Baptist Seminary Chapel, Nov. 10, Wheaton College Chapel, Nov. 12 and 13, etc.)

PERFECT LOVE

(Continued from page two)

I am about to enter some one says to me, "Are you not afraid to go in there? Do you not realize that these men are likely to be condemned to penal servitude, or possibly to death? Are you not afraid to be in that company?"

I answer, "Not at all; I am not on trial; the law has nothing against me; I simply go in as a spectator."

You see I would have boldness in the day of Judgment. And so in regard to the last great Assize; perfect love has cast out all fear.

"He bare on the tree the sentence for me,

And now both the Surety and sinner are free;

And this I shall find we too are so joined,

He will not be in glory and leave me behind."

He is in Heaven now as my representative, and I am accepted in Him. And so we read, "As He is so are we in this world." Perfect love has given me His place now before God. It is not a question of my likeness to Christ morally, while I seek by grace to become more and more like Him, but I am always conscious of my short-coming. Yet I know that I am as He is in relation to the question of judgment.

What a wealth of meaning is found in these nine monosyllables. God wrapped up one of the profoundest truths of Scripture in a child's sentence of one syllable words. Sometimes, when we who try to preach, want to impress people with the profundity of our thoughts, we strike an attitude, attempt to look very profound, and draw on the dictionary for all the big words we can find with which to cover up the real poverty of our thought. But God uses the simplest words to express the greatest truths. Who would have believed it had He not Himself declared it? That as Christ is so are we even in this world, if we have put our trust in Him. He has made us accepted in the Beloved. Is it not wonderful? Do you believe it? If you do, I know that all fear is driven out, for He that feareth is not made perfect in love. To be made perfect in love is to have learned the lesson that the Holy Spirit is here seeking to teach us.

The Latin Test

Think of a group of young people who are to have a Latin test in school. For days prior to the examination you see most of them going about with a Latin Grammar under their noses, conjugating verbs, and trying to fill their minds with Latin phrases. They are desperately afraid of failure. Why? Because they are not made perfect in Latin. But see that bright young girl walking across the campus with tennis shoes on, and a tennis racket in hand. Some one calls out and says, "Where are you going? Don't you know there is a Latin test coming?"

She answers, "Oh, yes, I know all about that, but I am going out to play, for I know my lesson, and I have no fear of the test."

And so, if our hearts have really taken in the truth that this wonderful chapter was intended to teach us, all fear and dread of the Judgment will disappear, and we shall be able to look forward to it with perfect equanimity, knowing that we are one with Him who shall sit upon that throne.

Now the moral result of it all comes out in the closing verse of the text, which is literally, "We love because He first loved us." It is true that we love Him, but the editors generally omit the pronoun. Some of you may feel that you are losing something by leaving it out. But think a moment, and you will see that you are really gaining. For it is not only that we love Him, but we love His. We love all for whom He died. His perfect love is now shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost, which is given unto us, and we love because He first loved us.

The Prisoner's Purpose

Let me close with an incident, which I read in a Christian periodical some time ago. In a large penitentiary there was a Christian guard who was deeply interested in the welfare of the men he was set to watch. During a certain part

of the year, it was his duty to take a group of men fettered hand and foot, down to the river-side where they were loaded aboard a boat and taken across the stream, and put to work breaking stone on the road. As he was escorting his squad one morning, he noticed in the rear of the line an old man who had spent almost an ordinary lifetime behind grey walls. The guard suddenly remembered that the aged convict's time was nearly up, and he was soon to be discharged. He stepped back and walked along with him to the river, inquiring concerning his expectations when he should return to the world outside. He learned that the old man did not have a friend to whom he could go. All who had ever been interested in him had died long since. Asked what he expected to do when he got back into the world, the old man looked at him with eyes blazing with hatred and said, "One of the first things I intend to do is

To Kill a Policeman."

"Why," exclaimed the guard, "that is a very foolish thing to do. What do you want to kill a policeman for?"

"I am going to kill the policeman that swore my liberty away and put me here. I have done time often for crimes I committed, but this time I have been here for ten years for a crime I never committed, and I have been nursing the desire for revenge all through the years. Now I am eager for the moment when I can kill the man that put me here."

The guard asked, "Have you thought of the consequences? What will happen after you kill the policeman?"

"Oh, I will be arrested again, and taken to jail."

"And after that?"

"Well, I will go to trial, and I suppose they will send me back to the penitentiary."

"And after that?"

"Oh, well, I will have to hang for it."

"And after that?"

The man shifted uneasily, but said, "Oh, I know what you mean; but there cannot be any worse hell than I have lived in all these years."

The heart of the guard was deeply moved, and he silently looked up to God, praying that he might be able to say the right thing and give a message that would reach this hardened, desperate criminal. Then he asked him, "Do you have a Bible in your cell?" The man admitted that he did. "Have you read it?"

"Yes, I have read it through several times. It has helped me to pass the hours away."

"Did you ever read this in your

Bible, 'God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life?'"

"No," he exclaimed, "I have never read that. That isn't in my Bible. God doesn't love this world, and He hates sinners like me."

"Will you do something for me?"

"Yes, I will if I can. You are the one man that said a kind word to me in ten years. I will do anything I can for you."

"When you go home to-night, will you take your Bible, and turn to the Gospel of John, chapter 3, verse 16, and tell me tomorrow what you found there?"

He readily promised, and the guard left him, committing the case to the Lord.

The next day as the little squad gathered together to go down to the river, the old man came from his cell with

A Strange Light in His Eyes

and the look upon his face was such as had never been seen before. When opportunity presented itself, the guard slipped over to him, and asked quietly, "Did you look up that verse?"

"Yes, I did," was the reply. "I could hardly believe it as I read it. It was just as you said. I have read it over and over, and oh, sir, it seems too good to be true, that 'God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.' I have been reading it over, and thinking about it all night long. Oh, sir, if God has loved me like that I cannot fight against Him any more. I have taken Christ to be my Saviour."

The guard grasped his hand while tears of joy flowed down both their faces, and then the aged convict leaned over and said in low tones, "Do you know, sir, something has happened. I don't want to kill the policeman. I wish I could find him and throw my arms around him and tell him that God so loved the world that He gave His only Son."

Yes, this is the effect of the love of God when the Gospel message is believed. "We love because He first loved us."

"His is love, 'tis love unbounded,

Without measure, without end;
Human thought is here confounded,

'Tis too vast to comprehend.

Praise the Saviour,

Magnify the sinner's Friend."

(This sermon used by special permission of Dr. Ironside and with grateful acknowledgement to Loizeaux Brothers, from a book now out of print, "God's Unspeakable Gift.")

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Hundreds of Ministers Commend the 'Sword'

(Continued from page one)

tor's degree wrote that the editor's articles on prayer had helped him to victory over a burden of five years standing. And how many, many ministers have said they were grateful for a subscription to *The Sword of the Lord* given them by some friend!

Here I am giving statements by

The Dance —

(Continued from page one)

passions, to the breakdown of modesty, and to the scarlet sin and heartbreaking tragedy. And what the modern dance did that time it has done in multiplied thousands of other cases.

What is wrong with the modern dance is simply this: when men have their arms around women and girls, this one and then that one, and another one, often with body against body, sometimes with cheek against cheek, hand in hand, with limbs often touching, with the ladies' dresses cut low and with bodies perfumed, and under the seducing strains of sensual music, *sex desire is stimulated*. What people really dance for is not the exercise, it is not the music, it is not simply the interesting society. What people dance for is the mating thrill, the inflammation of sex desire. Repeatedly, in large audiences over America I have preached plainly and scripturally on this subject; and men have held their hands high, without a dissenting vote, to say that the dance arouses lust. It breaks down modesty, it allures young minds and bodies to forbidden paths, and lust often ends in adultery.

The Saviour said in Matthew 5: 27, 28, "Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery: but I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart."

Then according to the Saviour's own definition, adultery is actually committed in the heart, on the dance floor.

And not only is it committed there, in the heart, but it leads, in many, many cases, to the actual scarlet sin.

Once I spoke on a street in Fort Worth on a Sunday afternoon. In the sermon some reference was made to the harm and allure of the dance. When the service was finished a nurse from the City-County Hospital at Fort Worth told my wife this story.

She said, "We have in the City-County Hospital a girl dying with syphilis, though she is only seventeen years old. She has been a prostitute. You know they do not last long. The other day the girl, who knows she is soon to die, called me and asked me, 'Nurse, do you think I am such a bad girl?'"

The Christian nurse replied that her sin was great, but that God was merciful if she would repent.

"But tell me," said the girl who was soon to die after a life of sin, "what is the difference between me and the society girls of Fort Worth? They have their big balls and dances, these girls from the best families in Fort Worth, the ones whose names and pictures are on the society pages of the papers. They dance until midnight. Then when the dances are over and the men are all inflamed, they come down to see girls like me. I'm telling you the truth, they have done it many a time. Now, am I not just as good as those girls that dance in the best homes in Fort Worth?"

I ask you to consider that question of a dying fallen girl. She knew that the dance leads to adultery. Not every one who starts out with the dance ends up with adultery, but thousands do; and all the rest have taken a big step in that direction.

The testimony of Mr. Faulkner, the converted dancing master who wrote *From the Ballroom to Hell* is that the dance leads to adultery. The testimony of the Chicago Vice Commission, which interviewed 300 prostitutes some years ago was that eighty-five per cent said that the dance was responsible for their downfall. The testimony of many individuals who have talked to me personally, is that the dance breaks down modesty, inflames sex desire, and often leads to the scarlet sin and ruin.

some other ministers who have written us about how they liked *The Sword*. Most of these, if not all, have asked for sample copies to give out to their people. Read what pastors say about this outstanding evangelistic weekly, and then will you not try to help us get it in every home possible? Pastors can make public announcement about the paper. Pastors or any one else may write for free sample copies to give out, if you will. And during the present subscription campaign you may subscribe for others, or get others to give you their subscriptions, and get the editor's new book *PRAYER—Asking and Receiving*, as a free gift with each three subscriptions at \$1.00 a year each. Send the paper to good Christians who will love it and be blessed by it; to your pastor; to Sunday School teachers; to loved ones.

Letters from Ministers

"There's no question in my mind as to the worth of the paper, that is, the messages you send out. One of our members secured a position in Biloxi, Mississippi, some months ago. Shortly after that I began taking the 'Sword.' I recommended it to him, and he is also getting it now. He writes me that he enjoys every issue and then passes it on to others.

"What I have just written answers your question as to whether *The Sword of the Lord* has helped me in my personal life and preaching. It surely has. For many years I have been reading the *Moody Monthly*, the *Sunday School Times*, *Christian Victory* (Denver, Colo.), *Our Hope* and a number of other periodicals of like quality. I preach a "whole" Bible and not a Bible full of "holes." The Doctrinal Basis of the China Inland Mission (in China's Millions) states very well what I believe and preach. And so I surely welcome your little paper and its wholesome message, and can say truly that I am refreshed and strengthened by its weekly messages, in addition to what I receive otherwise." — Rev. Edward T. Uhler, 14 S. Vine St., Mt. Carmel, Pa.

"I believe we wrote you before this that we profited by reading your paper. Am especially pleased that it is given to the propagation of the gospel which is of far greater importance than any other thing." — Rev. Albert Rust, Corwith, Iowa.

"Thank you for your generous offer to send your paper for distribution. It is such a blessing in my life that I desire others to share it with me.

"I have just finished reading Hyman Appelmann's message on 'Hitlerism' and it has fired my soul in such a manner that I am led definitely to make the following request. Will you send me, if possible 100 copies of this particular issue in order that my congregation may share in the blessing. . . . Your messages on prayer and faith have also helped me." — T. C. Fletcher, Pastor, Utica Baptist Church, Utica, Illinois.

"I am a blessed reader; so are a few of my parishioners, and what is a blessing to me will surely be to other of God's saints. I consider your magazine the best that comes to my desk, and my wife is always ready to read each new copy." — Rev. Elias Bressler, Lebanon, Pa.

"Although we have never seen you we feel as if we know you. It is that tie that binds the hearts and spirits of the body of Christ in precious fellowship. We have enjoyed your radio ministry and your books and especially your weekly call in *The Sword of the Lord*. We pray for you and may God use you mightily in your present meeting in Dallas. . . . I feel, too, that it is the outstanding evangelistic paper in our land.

. . . . *The Sword of the Lord* is a real blessing to me. You know it is a good and a necessary thing for preachers to be "preached at," and so once a week I just soak up the Word as it comes in the *Sword*. . . . I enjoy your preaching and message and the others, too, especially Oswald J. Smith. I often use and pass on some of the "nuggets." — Rev. Willis H. Miller, Pastor, Primitive Methodist Church, Ridgeway, Wisconsin.

"I can heartily recommend *The Sword of the Lord* and please for-

THE FATHER'S RESPONSIBILITY

(Continued from page two)

of the Holy Ghost and faith, men of good report, tested and proved as loyal men of God. Not one book of the Bible was written by a woman. This is abundant evidence that God intended that men should take the lead and carry the main responsibility in religious work. The fact that we have to depend almost entirely upon the women to carry

give my carelessness in not renewing my subscription. Enclosed find one dollar for renewal subscription, and thank you for continuing to send me my copy even though not paid for." — Rev. D. W. Blomgren, 722½ Lincoln Ave., Rochelle, Illinois.

"I shall be glad to give out your *Sword of the Lord* paper. It has been an inspiration to me, and I'm sure it can be to others." — Rev. George S. Hixson, First Baptist Church of Mt. Rainier, Mt. Rainier, Maryland.

"Brother, I have received many a blessing through the paper, in fact, I have preached some of the sermons to my congregation. I am indebted to you and the brethren for some fine preaching." — Rev. H. G. Wiens, Pastor, Forsan Baptist Church, Forsan, Texas.

"I do not know of another paper that is better than yours. One reason I like it is because it has plenty of spiritual food in it. Another one is that it takes plenty of room to preach the gospel and not to lift up the editor or owner. . . . I enjoy every article in your paper and look forward to them each week." — Rev. John E. Strickland, Rt. 5, Box 108, Jacksonville, Fla.

"For a long time I have intended to let you know how very much I enjoy your paper now. I know of no paper just like it, and I think it has no equal in its own particular field, which seems to be solely, the spread of the Gospel and the building up of the faith of the Lord's people." — Rev. I. Noel Snow, West Side Baptist Church, Wichita Falls, Texas.

"The sermons I have read in *The Sword of the Lord* have been true to the Word; I am grateful to you, and to Almighty God for such messages from His Holy Word. They have been to me an inspiration." — Rev. Robert Bowring, Box 146, Otisville, N.Y.

"I love your paper very much, and it is a great help in this part. And your books, too, have helped so much." — Rev. Eugene Lake, Rock Island, Illinois.

"I enjoy the paper very much, and think it very helpful. I read the whole issue each time, and get much information and inspiration from it." — Rev. Robert E. Atkins, 27 Dixie Trail, Raleigh, N. C.

"I would be very happy to do all I can to advance the interests of your splendid paper. I praise the Lord for its excellent Gospel messages. It surely has proved a blessing to my own soul." — Rev. Robert E. Nichols, 115 Catherine St., Ypsilanti, Michigan.

"I have taken the paper for about four years. It has been a priceless source of good sermons from God's best in America. It has been of deep value to me personally. I would not care to be without it." — Rev. Robert F. Kittell, Box 147, Madella, Minn.

"I like the paper; have read it with pleasure and profit. It is refreshing in this day of modernism to find a religious paper that rings clear on the Fundamental Doctrines of the Bible and I prize it highly. Well, I could say much more in commendation of it." — Rev. J. M. Swafford, Elmira, Mo.

"Some months ago a friend subscribed for your fine little paper *The Sword of the Lord* for me. Since that time I have read it regularly and always with great profit. Such things as you publish in it are "food and drink" to the soul. I thank you for the help it has been to me in my personal life and ministry." — Rev. W. C. Eddy, Pastor, Grace Methodist Church, Balch Avenue, at Fourth St., Fresno, California.

on and assume places of leadership that God intended for men to have is a reproach and shame upon the men of our generation.

The Father an Example to His Children

The Scripture says, "Enoch walked with God three hundred years." Most people fail to see something in that scripture — that the day Enoch began to walk with God was the day that his first son was born. The day that boy came into that home, he became a different man. He thought of life differently then. Everything was more serious then, and that day the father made a new dedication of himself to God and began to walk with God. Father, if you haven't done that, you have deprived your boy of the greatest thing you could give him — a real Christian father. Every child born into this world is entitled to a Christian home, and the wife can't make it by herself. I feel so sorry for a lot of them. I praise the Lord for them and the way they are trying to carry the responsibility alone, but without the help of the father a real Christian home is impossible.

I read a story once of an unsaved lawyer who said the turning point in his life came one morning as he started out to his office. He had to cross the street to catch the street car. The snow was deep, and he was taking long steps to avoid stepping in the snow more than necessary. He looked back and there was that three-year-old boy doing his best to step in his tracks in the snow. "Son, what are you trying to do?" he asked. "Just stepping in daddy's tracks," was the answer. The father said he realized then that his boy was not only stepping in his tracks in the snow, but was literally following his ways. Every boy makes a hero out of his father. Dad, are you leading him to heaven or hell?

"And they both went together." God give us men who are willing to lead the way to God! Joshua took all the responsibility for his family, his wife, his children and his servants. "As for me and my house," he said, "we will serve the Lord." My father didn't ask us if we were going to Sunday School. That was already settled — he had settled that for us. He didn't ask if we were going to church. But when Sunday morning came it was, "Children, get ready, we are going to church." I have heard men say, "When I was a child they made me go to church and now that I can I do as I please, I am not going." Brother, that is not to your credit to make a statement like that. It is to your everlasting shame and disgrace that you haven't had manhood enough to try to be decent when you had a dad who tried to lead you in the right way. You ought to thank God that you had a father that had that much interest in you. You ought to be thankful that you had a father who was not willing that you should be brought up in heathenism.

O what it means to both father and son where that comradeship exists that Abraham and Isaac enjoyed. How it strengthens both lives. How much better man it makes out of a father when he realizes his responsibility and realizes that his boy is trying to be like him. I shall never forget when I was in brother Clyde's home in Ennis, Texas. One day his little boy, Billy, came out of a room dressed up in his dad's clothes. I never saw such a sight in my life. He had put on daddy's coat and rolled the sleeves up; the hat came down over his ears, and the tail to the coat was dragging the floor. I laughed at him and so did Clyde. But in a minute I saw brother Clyde begin to wipe away the tears as he said, "Do you see what I see?" "Yes, I do," I said, I see what every dad ought to see — that every boy thinks his dad is the greatest fellow in the world." Dad, live so they will always think it. Every boy will be like dad even to dressing in his clothes, pulling dad's hat down over his ears, and letting the coat tail drag on the floor behind him. O I tell you when God entrusts lives and a home to you as a father, don't shirk that responsibility!

It is not only a responsibility but the greatest privilege a man ever had — the privilege of taking his whole family to heaven with him. I tell you I believe with all my heart that wherever there is a man that will face that responsibility and sets his heart on doing it, he can take his family to heaven with

him. I believe his family will go with him.

I stood by the bedside in a hospital in Childress, Texas, of a boy 16 years of age who was dying of an infection in the blood stream. They had given him one transfusion after another until when he would take one it would run his temperature extremely high and cause terrible rigors. The doctor said that he must have another transfusion. The father said, "I do not believe he can stand another." But he walked over by the bedside and said, "Son, do you reckon you could stand one more?" That boy took his daddy by the hand and said, "Daddy, will you stay with me and hold my hand?" His father said, "I will, son." That boy said, "Daddy, if you will stay with me and hold my hand, I can stand anything."

Father, if you will stay with him and hold his hand and lead him in the right way, he can do anything.

Free —

(Continued from page one)

or renewal. Gives names and addresses carefully, tell whether each subscription is new or renewal, and tell where to send the book.

Notable Features of the Book

1. It is full of real Bible teaching. What does God really promise to do in answer to prayer? What are His conditions? What have I a right to ask for? What in my life hinders prayer? Such questions as these are clearly and definitely answered from the Word of God.

2. The book cultivates a believing, expectant, victorious attitude about prayer. Some books on prayer are written by modernists or practical unbelievers who dilute faith, explain away promises, discourage expectancy of direct, definite answers from God. This book shows that prayer is asking, that Christians are invited, encouraged, to ask what they will, what they need, what they want; that we can know what we should pray for, that we can pray in the will of God, and so can get just what we ask, that God still is the willing, loving, compassionate, miracle-working God.

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